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Security Council

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Letter dated 14 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to forward the attached Government statement issued by the Republic of Sierra Leone on 14 August 2000, welcoming the firm commitment made by the Security Council concerning the establishment of a special court in Sierra Leone (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ibrahim M. **Kamara**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 14 August 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Government of Sierra Leone unreservedly welcomes the firm commitment made by the United Nations Security Council today to establish an independent special court to bring to justice persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law as well as Sierra Leonean criminal law in the territory of Sierra Leone.

By that resolution, the United Nations and the international community have gone beyond the mere expression of abhorrence and shock at the atrocities committed against the people of Sierra Leone. They have sent a clear message to perpetrators of hideous crimes that collective action is now being taken to end impunity in this country.

The people of Sierra Leone, in particular the victims of the atrocities, have been commended for their courage and resilience. They are determined to embark on the painful process of reconciliation and national reconstruction. However, they have not relinquished their right to demand truth and justice as the principal prerequisites for genuine reconciliation and lasting peace in the country.

The Government of Sierra Leone is aware that like the establishment of democracy, the administration of justice can be an expensive proposition, especially for such a war-devastated country as Sierra Leone. That is why it also welcomes the decision of the Security Council to request the Secretary-General, among other things, to include in his recommendations provisions for necessary international assistance for the establishment and efficient functioning of the special court.

For its part, the Government of Sierra Leone wishes to assure the Secretary-General of its cooperation in facilitating the work of the team of experts that he is about to dispatch to Sierra Leone. The Government expresses the hope that the necessary consultations and negotiations will be expedited so that the Security Council can formally establish the special court within the shortest possible time.

Meanwhile, on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone, the Government wishes to express its sincere thanks to the members of the Security Council and other States for their contribution to the drafting and adoption of this historic resolution. It is, by all accounts, a major step forward towards the establishment of justice and peace in Sierra Leone.